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CROP YIELDS DOWN FROM 2001

Unseasonably cool, wet weather during May and hot, dry weather during July adversely affected spring planted crops across the State and have lowered producers expectations of achieving above average yields. Based on an August 1 crop yield survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, projected yields are less than the previous year for all of the State's major crops. Most of Tennessee's spring crops were planted on schedule and rated in good condition as of the end of May. However, condition ratings dropped during July, as the lack of moisture began to take its toll. As of August 2, most crops were developing at a pace ahead of the 5-year average and were mostly rated in fair to good condition. State Statistician, Debra Kenerson, stated that this year has been a trying one for most Tennessee producers. She added, "They have endured unusual weather conditions this year from freezing temperatures and flooding in May to drought like conditions in many areas this summer." The August forecast, which is based on farmers' expectations of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following: **Cotton**, 651 pounds per acre, down 112 pounds from last year; **Corn**, 110 bushels per acre, down 22 bushels from last year; **Soybeans**, 29 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from last year; **Burley Tobacco**, 1,900 pounds per acre, 100 pounds below than last year; and **Other Hay**, 2.10 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton from a year ago.

COTTON PRODUCTION DOWN 22 PERCENT

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 760,000 bales, down 22 percent from 2001. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 651 pounds per acre, down 112 pounds from a year ago. Producers expect to harvest 560,000 acres, 9 percent less than last year. This spring was a difficult one for cotton growers as cold temperatures and excessive rainfall led to delayed plantings and abandonment of flooded acreage. Producers have experienced the worst spring planting conditions and development since 1991. Approximately 30 percent of the acreage was re-planted due to adverse weather and seedling disease. The crop was rated in poor to fair condition at the end of May but has benefitted from the hot July weather and, as of August 2, was rated in mostly good condition. The majority of the State's acreage had set bolls by the first of August, only slightly behind the 5-year average.

CORN YIELDS HIGHLY VARIABLE

Corn production is forecast at 68.2 million bushels, down 17 percent from last year but 3 percent above 2000. As of August 1, yield is forecast at 110 bushels per acre, down 22 bushels from 2001. Producers intend to harvest 620,000 acres for grain, the same amount as a year ago. Corn planting got underway on time this spring; however, development was slowed due to unseasonably cool, wet weather. Producers have also experienced difficulties with insects, freezing weather, and flooding along the Mississippi River. The recent dry weather has had a negative impact on pollination in some areas, but crop development is currently progressing ahead of the 5-year average. There have also been reports of lesions on leaves indicating gray leaf spot and stalks twisting in some areas due to drought conditions. Growers yield expectations are highly variable depending on location and amount of rainfall.

TENNESSEE SOYBEAN PRODUCTION DOWN

Tennessee soybean farmers expect to produce 32.5 million bushels, down 9 percent from 2001 but 13 percent above 2000. Soybean yields are expected to average 29 bushels per acre, 5 bushels below last year. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.12 million acres, down 70,000 acres from a year ago. Planting of this year's soybean crop fell behind normal due to wet fields earlier this spring, but producers finished ahead of schedule by the end of June. As of August 4, the majority of the crop had bloomed with just over half having set pods, nearly a week ahead of schedule. Currently, the crop is rated in fair to good condition.

BURLEY PRODUCTION LOWEST IN 60 YEARS

Burley production as of August 1 is forecast at 57.0 million pounds, down 11 percent from 2001 and, if realized, will be the lowest production since 1942. Unfavorable wet conditions in early May had many tobacco growers concerned about setting out this year’s crop. The crop was transplanted on pace with the 5-year average, but producers were unable to spread-out the crop as much as they would have liked to aid in optimizing usage of barn space and labor. A number of acres have been lost due to frost, hail, and dry conditions. During the first week of August, producers were topping their fields and had begun harvest in a few areas. Black Shank has caused moderate to severe damage in a few areas of the State. Yields per acre for all other types are also down slightly from last year. Type 22 is forecast at 2,900 pounds, down 100 pounds; Type 23, down 75 pounds to 3,100; and Type 35, down 100 pounds to 2,500 pounds.

HAY FIELDS IN NEED OF RAIN

Hay production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 4.31 million tons, 7 percent below last year’s record production. Yields are expected to average 2.10 tons per acre, down 0.1 tons from 2001. Harvested area is estimated at 2.05, 2 percent below last year’s record 2.10 million acres. Harvest of this year’s hay crop began on schedule at the end of April, but quickly fell behind the normal pace due to the wet, cool conditions during the first of May. During June, favorable weather conditions allowed producers to get caught up and make excellent progress with some drier areas harvesting a second cutting. By the first week in August, pastures were rated in fair to good condition with many suffering from the lack of moisture. A few livestock producers had begun to feed hay. The second cutting of alfalfa hay is virtually complete, and producers are becoming less optimistic about getting additional cuttings.

APPLE CROP DOWN FROM LAST YEAR

The August 2002 Apple Survey showed that production of this year’s apple crop will be down slightly from last year. Tennessee’s apple production is estimated at 8.0 million pounds, down 1.0 million from last year. Apple budding and blooming began earlier than a year ago, but was slowed by cool weather in mid-April. By the first week in May, favorable weather conditions helped the crop get back on a more normal pace.

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, AUGUST 1, 2002, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
			Indicated		Indicated		Indicated
		2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,000	8,000
Corn for grain	bu.	620	620	132	110	81,840	68,200
Cotton ¹	lb.	615	560	763	651	978	760
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	2,100	2,050	2.20	2.10	4,620	4,305
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	3,700	4,000
Soybeans	bu.	1,050	1,120	34.0	29.0	35,700	32,480
Tobacco, All	lb.	39.69	35.90	2,189	2,061	86,893	73,990
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	6.5	5.0	3,000	2,900	19,500	14,500
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.52	.40	3,175	3,100	1,651	1,240
Burley (31)	lb.	32.0	30.0	2,000	1,900	64,000	57,000
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.67	.50	2,600	2,500	1,742	1,250
Winter Wheat	bu.	340	330	54.0	46.0	18,360	15,180
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,629,100	9,205,600
Corn for grain	bu.	68,808	71,001	138.2	125.2	9,506,840	8,886,009
Cotton ¹	lb.	13,827.7	13,112.4	705	675	20,302.8	18,439.0
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,699	40,575	1.93	1.92	76,437	77,976
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,441,400	2,531,700
Soybeans	bu.	73,000	72,029	39.6	36.5	2,890,572	2,628,387
Tobacco, All	lb.	432.40	435.46	2,293	2,117	991,519	921,829
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	9.80	7.50	3,135	2,933	30,720	22,000
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	3.62	2.80	3,419	3,186	12,377	8,920
Burley (31)	lb.	164.30	161.50	2,033	2,022	334,066	326,515
One-sucker (35)	lb.	3.42	2.70	2,821	2,744	9,648	7,410
Winter Wheat	bu.	31,295	29,764	43.5	38.9	1,361,479	1,158,710

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

REMINDER: All forecasts in this report are based on conditions about August 1 and do not reflect any possible weather affects since that time.